

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-06
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S E C R E T TAIPEI 4605

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MILI, MARR, PINR, TW, US
SUBJECT: ROC RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE ON THIRD COUNTRY ARMS SALES

REF: (AL TAIPEI 3881 (DTG 200820Z JUN 77)
(B) STATE 115997 (DTG 201048Z MAY 77)
(C) STATE 130885 (DTG 071819Z JUN 77)

1. CHIEF MAAG GENERAL FORNEY HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM
ADMIRAL SOONG CHANG-CHIH, CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF,
DATED JULY 8, 1977, WHICH IS THE ROC RESPONSE TO MISSION'S
DEMARCHE CARIED OUT ON JUNE 27 ON THE SUBJECT OF THIRD
COUNTRY ARMS SALES. TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

REFERENCE IS MADE TO YOUR INQUIRY MADE ON 27 JUNE
1977 CONCERNING THE ROC SALE OF FOUR (4) ITEMS OF AMMO AS
REFERRED TO IN THE NOTE IF THEIR PRODUCTIONS ARE USE OF
THE US FURNISHED TECHNICAL DATA AND MAP-SUPPORTED MACHINERIES.
A CSF INVESTIGATION REVEALS THE ACTUAL STATUS OF THEIR
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PRODUCTION AS FOLLOWS:

(A) 106MM HEAT: STARTING FROM 1962, STUDY AND PROTO-
TYPE PRODUCTION OF ITS METAL PARTS HAD BEEN MADE BEFORE
ITS FORMAL PRODUCTION WAS COMPLETED IN 1968, WITH THE
REQUIRED MACHINERIES AND DIES PURCHASED FROM GERMANY.
WHEN PURCHASE OF THE WORKING PROCEDURES FOR PRODUCTION OF
METAL PARTS WAS MADE FROM US IN 1972, PRODUCTION OF THIS

AMMO HAD BEEN UNDERGOING FOR MANY YEARS AND ITS WORKING PROCEDURE HAD BEEN FIXED, WHICH WAS NOT EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE US ONE. THEREFORE, THE US WORKING PROCEDURE ACQUIRED WAS USED ONLY FOR COMPARISON AND STUDY OF ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE OF TWO MODES OF PRODUCTION INSTEAD OF USING IT FOR FORMAL PRODUCTION.

(B) 4.2" HE AND 155MM HE: A CSF-DESIGNED SIMPLE POWDERING MACHINE RATHER THAN MAP-SUPPORTED MACHINES WAS USED IN FILLING THE BODY OF SHELLS WITH POWDER.

(C) 105MM HOW BARRELS: STARTING FROM 1971, DRAWING AND STUDY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF 105MM HOWITIZERS WERE MADE WITH ALL MACHINERIES EITHER DESIGNED BY CSF OR PURCHASED FROM WEST GERMANY. IN 1972, CSF POSSESSED THE IN-COUNTRY PRODUCTION CAPABILITY OF 105MM BARRELS. NO US BLUEPRINT WAS ACQUIRED UNTIL JUNE 1973, WHICH WAS BARELY USED FOR REFERENCE. THEREFORE, THE FOREIGN SALE OF 105MM BARRELS CANNOT BE CONSTITUTED AS INVOLVEMENT IN USING US TECHNICAL DATA.

IN PURSUANCE OF MND DIRECTIVE, NO FOREIGN SALE OF ITEMS PRODUCED BY USING THE "MAP-SUPPORTED MACHINES AND FACILITIES," AND "FORMAL TECHNICAL DATA," OR THROUGH "ROC-US COPRODUCTION" HAS BEEN MADE BY CSF AS REGULATED IN THE RELEVANT AGREEMENTS.

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2. IT WAS THE JUDGMENT OF THE MAAG'S MUNITIONS PRODUCTION EXPERT (NOW DEPARTED FROM TAIPEI) THAT THE FOUR TIEMS NOTED ABOVE WHICH HAD BEEN CAREFULLY SELECTED BY US (REFTELS) WOULD REQUIRE US-PROVIDED TDP'S AND/OR MACHINERY FOR EFFICIENT PRODUCTION. IN VIEW OF THIS, THE MISSION BELIEVED THAT THE ROC COULD NOT PROPERLY ARGUE THAT THE SALE OF THESE ITEMS DID NOT REQUIRE PRIOR USG APPROVAL.

3. HOWEVER, THE MISSION IS NOT IN A POSITION TO CONTEST THE ROC'S CATEGORIC DENIALS THAT US-PROVIDED TDP'S OR PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT WERE USED WITHOUT BRINGING IN OUTSIDE EXPERTS AND SECURING ACCESS TO COMBINED SERVICE FORCES (CSF) PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND RECORDS. AT A MINIMUM WE WOULD NEED THE PRESENCE OF A TEAM OF ARMS PRODUCTION EXPERTS HERE FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME AND WE WOULD REQUIRE THE COMPLETE COOPERATION OF THE CSF AT ALL LEVELS.

4. MEANWHILE, ONE OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN LARGELY ACCOMPLISHED: THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN REMINDED VERY POINTEDLY THAT WE HAVE A SPECIFIC INTEREST IN THIRD COUNTRY SALES AND AN ABILITY TO DISCOVER THESE SALES WHEN THEY ARE MADE WITHOUT OUR

KNOWLEDGE. WE THINK THAT THIS LESSON SHOULD SERVE TO EFFECTIVELY REINFORCE THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF TO THE MAAG CHIEF (WHICH WE BELIEVE HAS BEEN HONORED THUS FAR) TO ADVISE US IN ADVANCE OF ANY THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFER OF US DEFENSE ITEMS.

5. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, RECOMMEND THAT THE MATTER BE PURSUED NO FURTHER.

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